

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for retrieving images for display on an output device, said method comprising:

comparing ~~an~~ a bitmap itself, representing an image, selected for display on the output device, with bitmaps stored in a cache;

retrieving a bitmap from the cache, when the bitmap matches with the bitmap itself representing the image selected for display on said output device; and

storing in the cache a the bitmap representing the image, if the bitmap itself, representing the image, does not match with any bitmap stored on the cache.

2. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein:

the image selected for display comprises a character associated with a font set.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said storing further comprises:

assigning a unique identifier to a the bitmap stored in the cache.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 3, wherein said method further comprises:

including the unique identifier of a the bitmap stored in the cache in a file sent to the output device.

5. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 4, wherein said method further comprises:

retrieving from the cache the bitmap corresponding to the unique identifier in response to a request to display said file on said output device.

6. (Previously Amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein: the cache comprises a linked list data structure having length elements.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein a length element of the linked list data structure is associated with a unique length value and the elements of the linked list data structure are organized in order of increasing length values.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 6, wherein said storing a the bitmap in the cache further comprises: associating the bitmap with the length element of the linked list data structure corresponding to a length value of the bitmap.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of Claim 8, wherein said storing a the bitmap in the cache further comprises: associating the bitmap with a width element corresponding to a width value of the bitmap, wherein the width element is associated with the length element corresponding to the length value of the bitmap.

10. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein the output device comprises a printer.

11. (Currently Amended) A computer program product comprising computer program code for a method for retrieving images for display on an output device, said method comprising:

comparing ~~an~~ a bitmap itself, representing an image,  
selected for display on the output device, with bitmaps  
stored in a cache;

retrieving a bitmap from the cache, when the bitmap  
matches with the bitmap itself representing the image  
selected for display on said output device; and

storing in the cache a the bitmap representing the  
image, if the bitmap itself, representing the image, does  
not match with any bitmap stored on the cache.

12. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11,  
wherein

the image selected for display comprises a character  
associated with a font set.

13. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of  
Claim 11, wherein said storing further comprises:

assigning a unique identifier to a the bitmap stored  
in the cache.

14. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of  
Claim 13, wherein said method further comprises:

including the unique identifier of a the bitmap  
stored in the cache in a file sent to the output device.

15. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 14,  
wherein said method further comprises:

retrieving from the cache the bitmap corresponding to  
the unique identifier in response to a request to display  
said file on said output device.

16. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11,  
wherein:

the cache comprises a linked list data structure  
having length elements.

17. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 16, wherein:

a length element of the linked list data structure is associated with a unique length value and the elements of the linked list data structure are organized in order of increasing length values.

18. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 17, wherein said storing a the bitmap in the cache further comprises:

associating the bitmap with the length element of the linked list data structure corresponding to a length value of the bitmap.

19. (Currently Amended) The computer program product of Claim 18, wherein said storing a the bitmap in the cache further comprises:

associating the bitmap with a width element corresponding to a width value of the bitmap, wherein the width element is associated with the length element corresponding to the length value of the bitmap.

20. (Original) The computer program product of Claim 11, wherein the output device comprises a printer.

21. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

a processor; and

a memory coupled to said processor, and storing a method of retrieving images for display on an output device wherein upon execution of said method on said processor, said method comprises:

comparing ~~an~~ a bitmap itself, representing an image, selected for display on the output device, with bitmaps stored in a cache;

retrieving a bitmap from a the cache, when the  
bitmap matches with the bitmap itself representing  
the image selected for display on said output device;  
and

storing in the cache a the bitmap representing  
the image, if the bitmap itself, representing the  
image, does not match with any bitmap stored on the  
cache.

22. (Previously Amended) The apparatus of Claim 21,  
wherein:

the image selected for display comprises a character  
associated with a font set.

23. (Currently Amended) An output file format  
comprising:

a cache section including at least one bitmap  
associated with a unique identifier; and

a data section including a plurality of occurrences  
of ~~at least~~ the one unique identifier associated with the  
at least one bitmap in the cache section, wherein each  
occurrence of a the unique identifier is associated with a  
specified position, and for each occurrence of a the  
unique identifier in the data section, an image  
represented by the bitmap associated with the unique  
identifier is displayed on an output device in the  
specified position.